

THE INVENTION CLAIMED IS:

1. An extender for a key of a keyboard, comprising:  
an elongated member having a first end portion secured to a contact member, and an opposite second end portion secured to an attachment member, wherein with the attachment member secured to the key, displacing the contact member in a predetermined direction displaces the key in the predetermined direction,  
wherein the key has a touch plate area and the contact member has a contact area greater than the touch plate area of the key.
2. The extender according to claim 1, wherein the keyboard is selected from at least one of the following: a musical instrument keyboard, a computer keyboard, a calculator keyboard, a typewriter keyboard, and a telephone keyboard.
3. The extender according to claim 2, wherein the keyboard is a piano keyboard.
4. The extender according to claim 1, wherein the contact member is secured to the second end portion of the elongated member by a fastener selected from one of the following: adhesives, flowed molten metal or metal alloy and mechanical fasteners.
5. The extender according to claim 1, wherein the attachment member is secured to the first end portion of the elongated member by a fastener selected from one of the following: adhesives, flowed molten metal or metal alloy, and mechanical fasteners.
6. The extender according to claim 1, wherein the elongated member is an elongated rod having a yield strength in the range of 10,000 to 50,000 pounds per square inch.

7. The extender according to claim 1, wherein the attachment member is the second end portion of the elongated member.

8. The extender according to claim 1, wherein the attachment member is selected from at least one of the following groups:

(a) a clip having a first leg and a second leg joined to a base and having a generally U-shaped cross section with the first and second legs biased toward one another, and a lever mounted to each leg wherein moving the levers toward one another increases the space between the legs;

(b) a clip having a first plate and a second plate, each plate having a first end portion and an opposite second end portion and a shaft between the first and second end portions of the first and second plates, a biasing member acting on the plates to bias the first end portion of the plates toward one another and the second end portion away from one another; and

(c) a suction cup.

9. The extender according to claim 1, wherein the attachment member comprises a passageway in the key sized to receive an insert secured to the first end portion of the elongated member or the second end portion of the elongated member.

10. The extender according to claim 9, wherein the key has a contact area lying in a generally horizontal plane and an end surface lying in a vertical plane and an opening of the passageway is at the end surface of the key and the passageway has a downward slope.

11. The extender according to claim 1, wherein the attachment member and the second end portion of the elongated member are detachably secured together by at least one of the following fastening arrangements:

(a) the second end portion of the elongated member has a threaded surface and the attachment member has at least one bolt;

(b) the attachment member has an internally threaded shaft or the elongated member has an internally threaded second end portion and the second end portion of the elongated member has external threads or the attachment member has a shaft having external threads;

(c) the attachment member has a hollow shaft having an L-shaped groove and the second end portion of the attachment member has a tab on the outer surface slidable within the L-shaped groove or the second end portion of the elongated member has a hollow end portion having an L-shaped groove and the attachment member has a shaft having a tab slidable in the L-shaped groove; and

(d) the second end portion of the elongated member has a loop and the loop is secured to the attachment member by a fastener having a shaft and an enlarged end.

12. The extender according to claim 1, wherein the contact member and the second end portion of the elongated member are detachably secured together by at least one of the following fastening arrangements:

(a) the first end portion of the elongated member has a threaded surface and the contact member has at least one bolt;

(b) the contact member has an internally threaded shaft or the elongated member has an internally threaded first end portion and the first end portion of the elongated member has external threads and the contact member has a shaft having external threads;

(c) the contact member has a hollow shaft having an L-shaped groove and the first end portion of the elongated member has a tab on the outer surface slidable in the L-shaped groove or the first end portion of the elongated member has a hollow end portion having an L-shaped groove and the contact member has a shaft having a tab slidable in the L-shaped groove; and

(d) the first end portion of the elongated member has a loop and the loop is secured to the contact member by a fastener having a shaft and an enlarged end.

13. The extender according to claim 1, wherein the elongated member is a manually deformable elongated metal rod; and the attachment member is a binder clip.

14. The extender according to claim 14, wherein the contact member is a circular disc, and the disc and binder clip are detachably secured to their respective end portion of the metal rod.

15. The extender according to claim 1, wherein the keyboard is a piano keyboard and the key is one of a plurality of piano keys and at least one of the piano keys has the attachment member secured thereto defined as the attached piano key, wherein displacing the contact member in a downward direction displaces the attached piano key in the downward direction.

16. The extender according to claim 16, wherein the elongated member is a deformable metal rod and the contact member is a disc having a circular contact area greater than the predetermined available touch plate surface area of the attached piano key.

17. The extender according to claim 17, wherein the attachment member is a clip, and the clip and the disc are each detachably secured to their respective end portion of the metal rod.

18. An extender for a key of a keyboard, comprising:  
a deformable rod having a first end portion and an opposite second end portion, with a first part of a first securing arrangement on the first end portion of the rod and a first part of a second securing arrangement on the second end portion of the rod;  
a contact member having a second part of the first securing arrangement with the first and second parts of the first securing arrangement joined together; and  
an attachment member having a second part of the second securing arrangement with the first and second parts of the second securing arrangement joined together.

19. A method of depressing keys on a musical instrument, comprising the steps of:

providing at least two key extenders, each having an elongated member and a contact member positioned at one end of the elongated member;

shaping at least one of the elongated members such that upon attachment of the elongated member to a key the contact members are adjacent to and spaced from one another;

attaching the elongated members to selected ones of the keys; and  
depressing the contact members to depress corresponding keys.